

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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P R 021030Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5475
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 1415

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS : PGOV, CZ, UR
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT: THIRD DAY

REFS A. PRAGUE 1327 B. PRAGUE 1377 C. PRAGUE 1390 D. PRAGUE 1400

1. THIRD DAY OF BREZHNEV VISIT (JUNE 1) WAS SPENT IN BRATISLAVA, PRIMARILY IN LAYING WREATHES AND ATTENDING BANQUET GIVEN BY SLOVAK LEADERSHIP. BREZHNEV'S TOAST DEALT WITH SUCCESS OF LENINIST NATIONALITY POLICY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND WITH CLOSE TIES BETWEEN USSR AND SLOVAKIA. HIS SPEECH WAS MUCH MORE SLURRED THAN IN PRAGUE SPEECH. DELEGATION RETURNED TO PRAGUE EVENING OF JUNE 1.

2. MOST NEWSWORTHY ITEM THAT CAME OUT OF BRATISLAVA VISIT WAS THAT BREZHNEV'S WIFE, VIKTORIA PETROVNA, IS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. A SHORT NEWS ITEM IN JUNE 2 PRESS STATES SOVIET AMBASSADOR MATSKEVICH IN HER NAME LAID A
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WREATH ON GRAVE OF VIERA HUSAK, WHO WAS KILLED IN HELICOPTER CRASH LAST YEAR. NO INDICATION GIVEN OF WHERE MRS. BREZHNEV IS STAYING OR WHAT SHE IS BEING TREATED FOR. WE ASSUME SHE IS AT ONE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S NUMEROUS SPAS.

3. DISSIDENTS WHO WERE PUT IN PREVENTATIVE DETENTION MAY 30.

REPORTEDLY INCLUDING CHARTER 77 SPOKESPEOPLE MARTA KUBIWOVA AND LADISLAV HEJDANEK, WRITERS PAVEL KOHOUT AND VACLAV HAVEL, ACTOR PAVEL LANDOVSKY, FORMER JOURNALIST LUBOS DOBROVSKY, MUSIC CRITIC IVAN MEDEK, AND OTHERS IN PRAGUE, AS WELL AS FOUR IN BRNO INCLUDING SPOKESMAN JAROSLAV SABATA, WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN RELEASED EARLY IN JUNE 1. THEY WERE, HOWEVER, REPORTEDLY PICKED UP AGAIN AFTER DELEGATION RETURNED TO PRAGUE. THIS PUT AUTHORITIES WITHIN LETTER OF LAW WHICH REQUIRES FORMAL CHARGE BE FILED IF SUSPECTS ARE TO BE HELD MORE THAN 48 HOURS, AND PRESUMABLY ADDED TO PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURES ON THOSE ROUNDED UP.

4. PRAGUE TV IS SCHEDULED TO START COVERAGE OF BREZHNEV DEPARTURE CEREMONY AT 1525 LOCAL TIME JUNE 2.

WE ASSUME THAT THERE WILL BE A FINAL COMMUNIQUE, BUT THAT IT WILL APPEAR IN SATURDAY PRESS. WE WILL REPORT ON THAT AND PROVIDE A WRAPUP OF OUR IMPRESSIONS OF VISIT IN SEPTEL.

DECONTROL FOUR YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE.

BYRNE

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